

become much increased in width; and here their contents become developed into a very remarkable body, which has the power of extending itself beyond the orifice of the tube, and of again withdrawing itself far into the interior, exactly like the hydranth or polypite of a campanularian hydroid in its hydrotheca. When extended, it displays from around the margin of a wide terminal orifice its beautiful crown of tentacles; but when withdrawn into the interior of the cup-like receptacle, the tentacles are greatly contracted and thrown back into the cavity of its body. Its general appearance, indeed, is very like that of a campanularian hydranth; and a careful examination is needed in order to show that it possesses all the essential characters, not of a hydranth, but of a medusa. It has a circular canal surrounding the terminal orifice and supporting the tentacular crown, and it has four symmetrically disposed longitudinal canals extending from the circular canal backwards in the walls of the body. No manubrium could be detected, though this was carefully sought for at the point where it might be expected to be found—namely, where the medusiform zooid passes into the common cœnosarc which occupies the narrower portion of the tube; neither was there any appearance of a velum, nor of lithocysts or ocelli; but these are comparatively unessential modifications.

The reproductive system is probably developed in the walls of the longitudinal canals; but in none of the specimens examined was this part of the organization sufficiently mature to admit of a satisfactory demonstration.

For the little animal thus constructed I propose the name of *Stephanoscyphus mirabilis*. Whether it is to be regarded as parasitically connected with the sponge, or whether the two are only accidentally associated, it is at present impossible to say. At all events, in no instance did I find the *Stephanoscyphus* unaccompanied by the sponge.

*Stephanoscyphus* may then be regarded as a compound hydrozoon whose zooids are included in cup-like receptacles resembling the hydrothecæ of the calyptoblastic hydroids; but these zooids, instead of being constructed like the hydranths of a hydroid, are formed on the plan of a medusa. It has plainly very decided affinities with the Hydroida, but is nevertheless removed from these by a distance at least as great as that which separates from them the Siphonophora. It thus becomes the type of a new hydrozoal order, for which I propose the name of THECOMEDUSÆ.—*Nature*, July 30, 1874.

*Description of the Skull of a new Species of Dolphin (Feresa attenuata).* By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

The British Museum has lately received from M. Godeffroy, of Hamburg, a skull of a dolphin (but, unfortunately, it is without any habitat) which proves to be an unrecorded species of the genus *Feresa*.

The only other species of the genus, *Feresia intermedia*, has a broad muscle, dilated and rounded in front: the teeth are large and thick, the upper hinder one being smaller and more slender; three teeth on the side of the jaw occupy  $1\frac{5}{12}$  inch; there are eleven teeth on each side above, and twelve below.

The skull of the new species (*Feresia attenuata*) is very like that of the former; but the beak, instead of being dilated in front, becomes gradually narrower and is rather acute in front. Its teeth are considerably smaller and further apart. The three teeth in the middle of the sides of the jaw occupy  $1\frac{1}{6}$  inch of the margin; the two or three hinder teeth on each side of the upper jaw are much smaller and more slender than the others. The total length of the skull from the condyle to the front of the beak is  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches; the width of the skull over the front of the eyebrows is 8 inches; width of the beak at the front of notch  $4\frac{1}{3}$  inches, and at two thirds its length  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches; length of tooth-line 5 inches.

The genus *Feresia* is known from the other Lagorhynchina by having only ten or twelve teeth on each side of the jaw; whereas all the other genera have much more numerous teeth, from twenty to thirty, and the teeth in all the other genera are slender. *Feresia intermedia* has such large teeth that it was first described as an *Orca*, and was thought by Mr. Flower to be the young of that genus. In *Feresia attenuata* the teeth are much more slender and further apart, and in this respect resemble the teeth of the other genera of the tribe; but it is at once known by the limited number. It also agrees with the genus *Electra* in the attenuated form of the beak.

*Note on Iphiclides Ajax.* By RAPHAEL MELDOLA.

In a communication made by Mr. S. H. Scudder to the Natural History Society of Boston in October last, and reprinted in the pages of this Magazine\*, the author has done me the favour of making some remarks on a paper published by me in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for October last †. Having waited in vain up to the present time for the arrival of the Society's 'Proceedings,' I think it advisable to publish these remarks without further delay.

I am indebted to Mr. Scudder for pointing out the true signification of Mr. Edwards's tabulated results—a signification which it is difficult to gather from the text. It is to be regretted that Mr. Edwards did not affix an explanatory note to the numerical results given in his Table in the 'Butterflies of North America.' As this table now stands, it is apt to be taken for a general summary giving results that are to be considered true for each of the polymorphic forms of the insect, under all conditions. With regard to the issue of Mr. Scudder's remarks, however, I may state that these do not in any way affect the main conclusion arrived at by me in the

\* Ser. 4, vol. xiii. p. 186.

† Vol. xii. p. 301 *et seqq.*